

FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

May 13, 2013, 1:00 PM

3rd Floor, Winchester Hall

Members Present: Hermine Bernstein, RaeAnn Butler, Ernell Graham, Millard Haines, Bill Moseley, Alderman Carol Krimm, Louise Lynch, Mary Rice, Debra Savageau, Virginia Skelley, Dan Yeeles.

Excused: Steve Wilhide, Irene Packer-Halsey, Commissioner David Gray and Sue Ramsburg

Guests: Dr. Sonja Sperlich, chair of the CCRC Board of Trustees, Steve Bruns, Dr. Joseph Berman, Don Linton, Sue Thomson and Jane King, JPI.

Staff Present: Carolyn True and Pat Rosensteel.

Chairperson RaeAnn Butler called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM. Introductions of all attendees were made and Bill Moseley was welcomed as a new member. Ms. Butler reminded everyone that the meeting was being aired live on the county's government access channel.

There was no change to the agenda.

Upon a motion by Ginny Skelley, seconded by Hermine Bernstein, the minutes of the April 8, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved.

Elected Officials' Comments

Commissioner Gray was not present due to a conflict with his schedule; however Alderman Carol Krimm welcomed the television viewing audience. She suggested that the Commission may wish to review legislation recently passed by the General Assembly that affects seniors. RaeAnn Butler asked her to present this information at the June meeting.

There was no new business for discussion.

Old Business

Needs Assessment Update – Jane King with JPI updated the Commission on the status of the needs assessment survey. She stated that she has met with 2 groups composed of non-profit and community leaders and providers, and met with the Housing and Community Development division of the county government earlier today as well as other county staff in April. Jane stated that the assessment is focusing on the needs of baby boomers and other adults since the population projection of older adults in Frederick County continues to be ahead of the national average through 2030. There is still more research to be completed and JPI plans to begin writing the report in late June. The commission will be able to review drafts of the report as it is being written.

The electronic link to the survey is now available (<http://frederickcountymd.gov/agingneeds>) and hard copies of the survey have been distributed to several groups already. The electronic link will be available for a full month; the hard copy survey will continue to be accepted through May 31, 2013. Commission members were asked to help distribute the survey to their

networks, houses of worship and other organizations in order to have as wide a distribution as possible.

Dan Yeeles questioned Carolyn about Commissioner Smith's concerns regarding the survey. In response, she stated that the survey Commissioner Smith developed is more focused on the thoughts of providers and while shorter than the one developed by JPI, may not capture the information needed for a comprehensive, thorough assessment.

Carolyn stated that she and Jane would be meeting with the municipal planners during their meeting on June 14, 2013.

CCRC/MAL Update – Dr. Sonja Sperlich, chair of the Citizens/Montevue Board of Trustees, updated the Commission on the status of the proposed sale or lease of the facilities. She stated that a 5-person evaluation committee reviewed the 6 proposals and has recommended a final proposal that will be reviewed in a closed session with the Board of County Commissioners on May 16, 2013. Dr. Sperlich said it was premature to discuss a management proposal that the Trustees will also present since the Board of County Commissioners has not reviewed it. Depending on the outcome of the May 16 meeting, county staff may be directed to negotiate a contract with the successful bidder which will be presented publicly on May 30, 2013. If a decision is made to sell the facility, a public hearing will be held sometime in June. *Friends of Citizens and Montevue* has appealed the City rezoning decision based upon administrative error. The management firm, LW Consulting has a contract that expires on June 30, 2013 but Dr. Sperlich has not been made aware by the County if the contract has been extended for an additional term.

The CCRC/MAL Trustees are as concerned as the County Commissioners about the county subsidy the facilities receive and had hoped to have more time to try to reduce the subsidy following the move to new, more cost efficient facilities. Any profit shown by CCRC could offset the subsidy to Montevue which currently is \$2.5 million. Montevue is currently accepting new residents including those who cannot pay the cost to live at Montevue.

Dr. Sperlich stated it would make more sense to wait for the aging needs assessment to be completed because the county needs a plan in place so future Commissioners/elected leaders have a policy or plan in place that can be funded. Dr. Sperlich expressed concern about the community partnerships that could unravel (funds available at the Community Foundation, auxiliaries of both facilities) if the facilities are sold.

RaeAnn Butler opened the meeting to public comment, asking that the speakers limit their remarks to 5 minutes.

Sue Thomson, who lives in the Woodsboro area, stated that she had 2 points to make:

1. This topic is a social conscience issue and she believes the County Commissioners do not have a social conscience. Over the last several years, she has seen a "deplorable" lack of understanding of the needs of sicker, older community members as evidenced by this proposed sale/lease and the reduction in county funding to areas of the budget like Grants in Aid for non-profit providers.

2. Clinical Care at CCRC/MAL is excellent. She had a family member at 2 other county facilities before her loved one entered Citizens. She was very pleased and impressed with the quality of care this person received and as a nurse herself found the care, the attitude of the staff and the atmosphere to be genuine and sincere. She applauded the Commission on Aging for their support of this issue.

Steve Bruns – stated he has an online petition circulating and requested that if people are interested to please sign the copy he has available following the meeting. Mr. Bruns stated that the county has a political leader who does not believe in doing anything except for his political cronies such as developers. The County has provided for the needy since its founding – through Civil War efforts, veterans, displaced civilians. This has been a county to serve all and Mr. Bruns questioned what would happen to the sick, indigent, elderly.

Dr. Joe Berman – has extensive geriatric experience and is the former medical director of the Office of Health Care Quality. He has a sense of passion about this issue and asks “why” are we selling? He believes CCRC would be profitable next year and the profit would benefit Montevue, thereby reducing the subsidy. This is a political issue and questioned what is the role of government to care for the elderly in this county, but also nationally.

RaeAnn Butler thanked the speakers for their comments and stated the Commission would continue to follow this issue.

Friends of Meals on Wheels Update (FoMoW)– On behalf of Chairperson Gail Wingate, RaeAnn shared a report Gail prepared that outlined the number of fundraising events that have occurred over the last 3 months which has raised at least \$2,900. Mamma Lucia’s held an event earlier this month at which 15% of the profits would be turned over to FoMoW. In addition, Commissioner Blaine Young personally prepared a letter that was inserted in the Frederick News-Post and was also sent to his friends and associates asking for contributions. As a result of this effort, over \$14,000 has been raised.

The Department of Aging was requested by FoMoW to apply for \$1,200. This request was approved by the County Commissioners and an application was sent. The funds should be available to the Department by the end of May. The Meals on Wheels program continues to run a deficit of approximately \$13,000 and there are 106 people currently waiting to receive services even though there is space on the meal routes. However, since a recipient cannot be denied a meal due to an inability to pay, Carolyn is hesitant to add people to the routes for fear of increasing the deficit if people cannot or chose not to pay for their meals.

Sequestration Update – Carolyn stated that as a result of the federal sequestration, the Older Americans Act funding for the Department of Aging has been reduced by \$34,965. The percentage reductions range from 4.4% to a high of 8.4% in the congregate program. The Department of Aging submitted a plan for these reductions which include:

1. Change a benefitted vacant driver position to a contractual position, thereby saving fringe costs.
2. Close the Feagaville nutrition site on May 16 however, Tranquility Assisted Living is willing to assume the operation of this site by providing meals assuming the health department approves; reduce the amount of food money available resulting in 2,563 fewer meals served at senior centers.

3. Reduce the amount of mileage reimbursement that is available for health screenings at senior centers and reducing contract services which will inhibit our ability to expand evidenced based programming at senior centers where lower income seniors would have been served.
4. Reduce the amount of home delivered meal funding available by \$4,568 which could result in 976 fewer meals served.
5. Reduce the amount of subsidy funding available for respite in the Caregiver program.
6. Move personnel expenses in the federal Ombudsman grant to the state Ombudsman grant.

The Maryland Department of Aging must approve the proposed plan and has put all jurisdictions on notice that the FFY'14 allocation schedule may be as much as 10% less than the current year.

Alderman Krimm suggested that the Commission may wish to write Senators Cardin, Mikulski and Congressman Delaney a letter noting the affect these reductions will have on programs and services. She agreed to draft the letter with input from Carolyn.

Reports

Nominating

Millard Haines, chair of the Nominating Committee, stated that there are three non-provider positions available on the Commission. RaeAnn would like to schedule an orientation to the Commission with new members Bill Moseley and Irene Packer-Halsey.

TSAC (Transportation Services Advisory Council) – Alderman Krimm stated that Bike to Work day is Friday, May 17, 2013.

State COA – Louise Lynch stated that the state commission will host a statewide summit exclusively for Commission on Aging members on September 11, 2013 in Annapolis. This will be a bi-annual event. Judith Wells, a Montgomery County COA member will be the guest speaker and she has expressed interest in attending a Frederick County COA meeting. Louise also announced the annual Maryland Gerontological Conference scheduled for June 19, 2013 in Catonsville and noted that the state COA is investigating the RE-Serve program, a program that connects retired individuals with volunteer opportunities.

Partners in Care – Ernell Graham reported that the next meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2013.

United Seniors of MD – Ginny Skelley reported that the next meeting is May 20, 2013 in Annapolis at which Michael Busch will be the speaker. She noted that that USM is helping to sponsor the senior expos in Hagerstown, Cumberland and Oakland. The Senior Forum has been scheduled for January 21, 2014. Ginny hopes that Frederick County will be represented.

Adult Public Disabled Review Board – Mary Rice reported the next meeting will be on June 3, 2013.

Directors Report – Carolyn reported on several upcoming events hosted by the Department and noted the soft opening of the Senior Café at the Frederick Senior Center. The Café sells a la carte food items on Wednesday-Friday and is an effort to attract younger seniors to the center. A ribbon cutting is planned for late May or early June. Louise requested that Carolyn provide a

director's report on a more frequent basis. She suggested that Carolyn email her report to Commission members if the report's internal deadline does not coincide with the Commission meeting.

Upon a motion by Hermine Bernstein, seconded by Louise Lynch, the Commission members unanimously agreed to meet at Winchester Hall, if the meeting can be accommodated, on June 10, 2013 so that the meeting could be televised. Following that meeting, the Commission will evaluate having televised meetings and if a decision is made to continue the practice, will determine the frequency of televised meetings.

RaeAnn has a conflict with the next scheduled date for the executive committee meeting and requested that the members let her know of other possible dates the committee could meet.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully,

Carolyn B. True
Director
On behalf of Sue Ramsburg, Recording Secretary